

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-20 and 22-42 are presently pending in this case.

In the outstanding Official Action, it is Claims 16-20, 22, 23, and 30-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Morton (U.S. Patent No. 2,414,162) in view of Hurko et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,674,983, hereinafter “Hurko”); and Claims 34-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Morton in view of Hurko and further in view of Gressenich et al. (German Patent Document No. 19633706, hereinafter “Gressenich”).

Applicants and Applicants’ representatives thank Examiners Sample and Simone for the courtesy of the interview granted to Applicants’ representatives on September 8, 2010. During the interview, the previously filed declaration was discussed, especially with regard to how the declaration could be improved to be found persuasive. The Examiners indicated that if concrete data are included in another declaration, such a declaration would provide a much stronger case of unexpected results. A declaration including such concrete data is submitted herewith.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 16, 23, 30, and 33 as unpatentable over Morton in view of Hurko, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16 and 30 recite in part “a ratio of width of the at least one bevel to a height of the at least one bevel is less than 23.3.” Claims 23 and 33 recite in part “a ratio of width of the raised portion to a height of the raised portion being less than 23.3.” The outstanding Office Action asserted that the declaration filed on June 15, 2010 was unpersuasive as lacking factual support. The enclosed declaration by the inventors provides specific test data showing that when the claimed ratio is met, satisfactory results are provided, and when the

claimed ratio is not met, unsatisfactory results are provided. Accordingly, the critical value of the claimed ratio is determined as being less than 23.3.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the enclosed declaration proves the unexpected results of the claimed ratio. Consequently, Claims 16, 23, 30, and 33 (and all claims dependent therefrom) are patentable over Morton in view of Hurko.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 34 and 40-42 as unpatentable over Morton in view of Hurko and further in view of Gressenich, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 34 and 41 recite in part “at least one bevel 35 mm or more wide.”

As noted above, the enclosed declaration by the inventors provides experimental data proving unexpected results with respect to the conventional art. In the declaration filed June 15, 2010, the inventors describe that the conventional art could not include bevels greater than 35 mm wide without weakening the mechanical strength of the plate. In practice, bevels of the order of 12 mm wide were used. Accordingly, bevels 35 mm wide or more could not be used in the conventional art. In contrast, the enclosed declaration provides examples of bevels wider than 35 mm that unexpectedly provide satisfactory performance. Accordingly, the invention recited in Claim 34 and 41 cannot be rendered obvious by the cited art.

Claims 40 and 42 recite in part “the second surface includes pegs where facing the at least one raised portion.” The outstanding Office Action cited the portion of Morton which includes operating shafts 27 for switches 22 as “at least one raised portion” and knobs 3 of Gressenich as describing “pegs.” Further, page 15 of the outstanding Office Action asserts that “the knobs (pegs) would be placed under the raised portion in Morton and not under the capacitive sensor switches when combined with Gressenich, since the raised portion in Morton is located above the capacitive sensor switches.” Applicant agrees the raised portion in Morton is located above the capacitive sensor switches. In this regard, if the raised portion is above the capacitive sensor switches, and the knobs are under the raised portion, the knobs

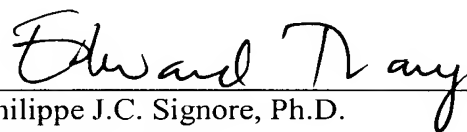
must be below (or above) the capacitive sensor switches. As the knobs cannot be between the raised portion in the capacitive sensor switches (above the capacitive sensor switches), the knobs must be below the capacitive sensor switches in this configuration. However, the abstract of Gressenich clearly describes that knobs 3 should *not* be below capacitive sensor switches, and includes a knob-less zone 2 in this area. Accordingly, Gressenich clearly teaches contrary to the proposed combination. It is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would combine Morton and Gressenich such that knobs 3 would *not* be placed below the portion asserted as “at least one raised portion.” Accordingly, there can be no suggestion or motivation to combine Morton and Gressenich as proposed.

Accordingly, Claims 34, 40, 41, and 42 (and Claims 35-39 dependent therefrom) are patentable over Morton in view of Hurko and further in view of Gressenich.

Accordingly, the pending claims are believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.



Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 07/09)

Edward W. Tracy, Jr.
Registration No. 47,998